

St Albans Symphony Orchestra

St Albans Chamber Choir

Watford Philharmonic Society

Royal Academy of Music Brass Ensemble

Magna Carta

In AD 1215 many of the nobles in England who were tired of losing their power, and who were concerned by the tyrant-like behaviour of King John, came together and wrote a document called the Magna Carta (Latin for Great Charter).

Magna Carta is one of the most important documents in history. It guaranteed the people certain rights, and bound the king to certain laws. The nobles forced King John to sign it, on the threat of civil war. Their intention was to protect the rights of nobles but, in time, the rights established by Magna Carta were also extended to commoners.

The Abbey and town of St Albans played a key role in the development of Magna Carta, with the first Council of Nobles being held in the Abbey in August 1213. It was during this Council that the first draft of Magna Carta was produced.



Sara Jonsson



Jeannette Ager

Celebration Concert

The Magna Carta Celebration Concert commemorates the historic role of St Albans with a musical celebration of Human Rights and Freedoms.

Aaron Copland's popular Fanfare for the Common Man, scored for brass and percussion, was written in 1942 as a celebration of democracy. Our concert opens with a performance by the Royal Academy of Music Brass Ensemble.

Howard Hanson, an American composer and conductor, wrote Song of Human Rights for choir and orchestra in 1963 to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which had been adopted by the United Nations in 1948.

Gustav Mahler's mighty Second Symphony, first performed in 1895, marks the composer's lifelong view of the beauty of life. Scored for large orchestra and choir with solo soprano and mezzo-soprano, it was Mahler's most popular and successful work during his lifetime.

This concert is sponsored by St Albans City & District Council.

